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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:	Samson et al.		
U.S. Serial No.:	Not yet assigned	Group:	Not yet assigned
Filed:	August 24, 2001		
Entitled:	ACTIVE AND INACTIVE CC-CHEMOKINE RECEPTOR AND NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING SAID RECEPTOR	Examiner:	Not yet assigned

Box: Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Request to Utilize CRF In U.S. Patent Application No. 09/626,939

Enclosed herewith is a paper copy of the sequence listing as filed in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/626,939, filed July 27, 2000, to which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Please enter after the last page of the specification and please number the pages as appropriate.

Applicants respectfully request that the electronic copy of the Computer Readable Form (CRF) from the parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/626,939, filed July 27, 2000, to which this application claims priority (and whose specification is identical to the specification of this application), be transferred to this file. Applicants state that the information in the CRF from Application Serial No. 09/626,939 is identical to written sequence listing provided herewith, and that no new matter is introduced by this submission.

In the Specification

Please change the title at page 1 of the specification from, "ACTIVE AND INACTIVE

CC-CHEMOKINE RECEPTOR AND NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING SAID RECEPTOR" to --METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING COMPOUNDS WHICH BIND THE ACTIVE CCR5 CHEMOKINE RECEPTOR--.

At page 1, at the top of the page, please delete VANMA51,001C1.

At page 1, please delete the text from "BACKGROUND" to "filed March 3, 1997" and insert therefore the following paragraph:

--RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/626,939, filed July 27, 2000, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/833,752, filed April 9, 1997, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) to EP 96870021.1, filed March 1, 1996, and EP 96870102.9, filed August 6, 1996.--

A marked-up version of page 1 of the specification is attached herewith showing where changes have been made.

In the Claims

Please **cancel** claims **1-38**.

Please **add** claims **39-54**.

39. A method for identifying a compound which specifically binds to the CCR5 chemokine receptor whose amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO 5, or a portion thereof, said portion comprising one or more of the glutamate at amino acid 100, the lysine at amino acid 138, the lysine at amino acid 141, and/or the valine at amino acid 209 of SEQ ID NO. 5 and which specifically binds at least one ligand of said CCR5 chemokine receptor, the method comprising the steps of:
    a) transfecting a cell with a nucleic acid molecule encoding said receptor or said portion thereof;

b) expressing said receptor or portion thereof under conditions permitting specific binding of said compound to said receptor or portion thereof;

c) exposing said cell to a sample suspected of comprising said compound; and

d) detecting the presence of any compound specifically bound to said receptor or portion thereof,

thereby determining whether said compound specifically binds to said receptor or portion thereof.

40. The method according to claim 39, further comprising the steps of preparing a cell extract from the cell transfected with said nucleic acid molecule, isolating a membrane fraction of said cell extract, and contacting said sample with said membrane fraction under conditions permitting binding of the compound to said fraction.

41. The method according to claim 39, wherein said detecting is performed by monitoring a change in the signaling activity of said CCR5 chemokine receptor or portion thereof.

42. The method according to claim 39, wherein said detecting is performed by monitoring the acidification rate of said host cell.

43. The method according to claim 41, wherein said detecting is performed by monitoring the level of intracellular calcium in said host cell.

44. The method according to claim 41, wherein said detecting is performed by monitoring the stimulation of an intracellular cascade.

45. The method according to claim 41, wherein said detecting is performed by monitoring the level of inositol triphosphate.

46. The method according to claim 39, wherein said compound is an agonist of CCR5.

47. The method according to claim 39, wherein said compound is an antagonist of CCR5.

48. The method according to claim 39, wherein said at least one ligand is selected from the group consisting of RANTES, MIP-1α, and MIP-1ß.

49. The method according to claim 39, wherein said cell is selected from the group consisting of CHO-K1, HEK293, BHK21, and COS-7.

50. The method according to claim 39, wherein said cell is exposed to said sample suspected of comprising said compound, in the presence of a ligand for the CCR5 receptor.

51. The method according to claim 50, wherein said ligand which is the CCR5 chemokine is labeled.

52. The method of claim 39, further comprising measuring the infectivity of the cell by HIV, and wherein a compound is selected which decreases infectivity by HIV by at least two-fold.

53. The method according to claim 52, wherein said decrease in HIV infectivity is measured measuring the production of an HIV protein.

54. The method according to claim 53, wherein said HIV protein is p24.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 39 to 54 are pending. No new matter is introduced by this amendment. Support for the newly added claims may be found in the specification as originally filed and at least at pages 3-8, pages 22-28, Figure 6a and b, and Figure 10.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully requests early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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